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Embassy of Canada



Ambassade du Canada

December 17, 2010

The Honorable Steve Cohen
U.S. House of Representatives
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4209

Dear Congressman Cohen,

I am writing in response to your publicly available letter of December 3, 2010 to Secretary Clinton regarding TransCanada Pipelines Limited's proposed Keystone XL pipeline (KXL). While respecting that the project is still under regulatory review in the United States, I believe it necessary to address several points in your letter which require clarification.

The first of these concerns your suggestion that extraction-related GHG emissions in Canada form part of a proposed Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement in KXL's permitting process. As you may know, Canada and the United States have committed to the same 17% greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target at Copenhagen and are working together as we speak to forge an international consensus around longer-termed climate change approaches. In various international agreements, including in the recently concluded Copenhagen Accord, it is recognized that, once targets are set, it is up to each country to determine what measures and tradeoffs will be required to reach those targets. The 17% GHG reduction target we committed to at Copenhagen establishes a benchmark we intend to meet through a combination of regulation and clean energy technology development, a strategy that is very similar to your own.

I would also like to address a point raised in your letter regarding the alleged condemnation of KXL by several Canadian provinces. To be clear, no Canadian province is on record having "condemned" the project. In fact, the proposed construction of the Canadian portion of this line was deemed to be in the "Canadian public interest" by the National Energy Board (NEB), the independent Canadian regulator which reviewed and approved the project proposal following a robust environmental assessment. The views of all participants would have been considered during this public and transparent assessment process. The NEB's Reasons for Decision document and a complete record of the proceeding is available for your review at: <http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/clf-nsi/rthnb/nwsrls/2010/nwsrls06-eng.html>.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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Finally, it is important to note that, in addition to shipping petroleum products from Canada, KXL would also carry crude from the states of Montana, North Dakota, and possibly Oklahoma, creating jobs and cost-efficiencies along the way. Establishing this vital link between southern U.S. markets and abundant, reliable energy supplies in Canada, would not only help strengthen energy security for Americans and Canadians alike, but would also generate a steady revenue stream and create thousands of well-paying jobs for all states along the proposed pipeline path.

I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss with you the issues outlined in this letter and look forward to your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Gary Doer
Ambassador

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